



countdown

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IBEX spacecraft mated to Pegasus XL for launch

Employees may wish Parsons farewell at Friday send-off



◆ **ELV Update:** NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer, or IBEX, has been mated with its Pegasus XL rocket for launch, targeted for Oct. 19. IBEX and the rocket will be dropped from under the wing of an L-1011 aircraft flying over the Pacific Ocean. The Pegasus will carry the spacecraft approximately 130 miles above Earth and place it in orbit.

IBEX is the first NASA spacecraft to image and map the dynamic interactions taking place where the hot solar wind slams into the cold expanse of space. IBEX will conduct extremely high-altitude orbits above Earth to investigate and capture images of processes taking place at the farthest reaches of the solar system. The two-year mission will begin from the Kwajalein Atoll, part of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

◆ **KSC CD Send-off Friday:** All employees are invited to join Center Director Bill Parsons on **Friday** for an informal afternoon of "goodbyes" and "farewells." Parsons is leaving KSC after serving as center director for two years, and in various other management capacities on the Kennedy team since 1990.

The sendoff party will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. in KARS Park, Area 1. Pizza, wings and refreshments will be served. There will be no formal presentations or speeches, just a fun time! For questions, please contact NASA Public Services at 867-2144.

■ **NASA News** — NASA Television will broadcast the launch of the next International Space Station crew Oct. 12

and landing of the current crew Oct. 23.

NASA's Expedition 18 Commander and Science Officer Mike Fincke, Soyuz Commander and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov and spaceflight participant Richard Garriott, a U.S. citizen, are scheduled to launch at 3:01 a.m. Sunday from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Their Soyuz TMA-13 craft will dock to the station Oct. 14.

NASA Flight Engineer Greg Chamitoff, who has been on the station since June, will remain with Fincke and Lonchakov until the arrival of space shuttle Endeavour on its STS-126 mission, targeted to launch Nov. 14. NASA astronaut Sandy Magnus will arrive on that flight to replace Chamitoff, who will come home on Endeavour.

Expedition 17 and Soyuz Commander Sergei Volkov, Flight Engineer Oleg Kononenko and Garriott will return to Earth at about 11:46 p.m. Oct. 23 in their Soyuz TMA-12 spacecraft now docked to the station.



■ **NASA 50TH Anniversary T-Shirts** — NASA 50th Anniversary t-shirts that were ordered and prepaid may be picked up 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at HQ/Room 1157. The cut-off date for picking up your t-shirt order is Nov. 3. All unclaimed t-shirts will be returned to inventory and sold. After this date you will need to contact Janice Jackson at Janice.H.Jackson.nasa@gov to request a refund.

■ **Save Lids To Save Lives Campaign** — Federally Employed Women is

joining Yoplait and the Susan G. Komen Foundation in the fight against breast cancer. The Save Lids to Save Lives® program will run through mid-December. With your help, FEW is collecting the pink Yoplait yogurt lids and sending them to Yoplait, who in turn will donate 10 cents for each lid collected to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Research. Send your clean pink Yoplait lids to Sandy Eliason, PH-L, or drop them off in the LCC/Room 4P23B.

■ **KARS Parks Reservations** — Please make reservations (company or personal) for KARS I and II pavilions or other facilities by contacting Kelby Seaman at 867-7010 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday - Friday, or go to: nasaexchange.ksc.nasa.gov. Payments for reservations can be made at the KARS I Country Store (daily) or HQ/Room 2328 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

■ **Special BJ's Membership** — Join BJ's business membership in this one-time special offer to KSC employees and save \$10 off the annual membership fee of \$45. You pay \$35 and get 15 months of BJ's membership for the price of 12. Representatives will be in the HQ lobby from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 22 and in the OSB Lobby from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 23. Sponsored by NASA Exchange.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail your news to anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.